SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS:

Amend the title to read as follows:

TERMINAL FITTING WITH SEAL PROTECTING FEATURES

Amend paragraph 0022 as follows:

[0022] The seal 30 is formed of a sealing material, and preferably a rubber material such as a silicon rubber. The seal 30 has a tubular shape, and is dimensioned to be fit and resiliently held in surface contact on the outer circumferential surface of the insulation coating 12 of the wire 10. The seal 30 has a small-diameter portion 31, a mounting portion 32 and a plurality of lips 33 arranged substantially coaxially along the longitudinal direction LD one after another from the front side. The lips 33 bulge outward near the rear of the seal 30 and are arranged one after another along the longitudinal direction LD of the wire 10. The mounting portion 32 has a substantially cylindrical shape, and an ~~insertion~~ insulation barrel 22 of the female terminal fitting 20 is to be crimped, bent or folded into connection with the outer circumferential surface of the mounting portion 32. The small-diameter portion 31 is tapered toward the front to have a converging substantially conical outer circumferential surface. Thus, even if the small-diameter portion ~~22~~ 31 flares out as the insulation barrel 22 is crimped into connection, the small-diameter portion 31 does not get caught by the inner wall of a cavity (not shown) of a connector housing when the female terminal fitting 20 is inserted into the cavity. Further, the front surface of the small-diameter portion 31 is substantially flush with the front end of the insulation coating 12.

Amend paragraph 0026 as follows:

[0026] The insulation barrel 22 has left and right fastening pieces 26 that extend from opposite side edges of the bottom plate 24. The fastening pieces 26 are displaced

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along the longitudinal direction LD. Thus, the left fastening piece 26 in FIG. 1 extends from a front part of the bottom plate 24, whereas the right fastening piece 26 in FIG. 1 extends from a rear part of the bottom plate 24. A slanted or rounded surface is formed at the edge of the inner surface of each fastening piece 26 to forming a seal protecting portion 27. More particularly, the front and rear edges facing towards the seal 30 in the folded configuration are slanted (FIG. 7(A)) or rounded (FIG. 7(B)) to protect the seal 30 from damage. The seal protecting portion 27 of this embodiment is formed at the edges of the inner surfaces of the respective fastening pieces 26 and also on the opposite side edges of the inner surface of the bottom plate 24 substantially continuous with the base ends of the fastening pieces 26. On the other hand, areas of the inner surfaces of the fastening pieces adjacent the seal protecting portions 27 define contact surfaces 29 for contacting the outer circumferential surface of the seal 30, as shown in FIG. 7. Thus, the seal protecting portions 27 are substantially continuous with the contact surfaces 29, but at least intermediate areas of the seal protecting surfaces 27 are at ~~obtuse~~ acute angles α to the contact surfaces 29. In FIG. 7(A), the seal protecting portions 27 are slanted or beveled planar surfaces that are inclined at an ~~obtuse~~ acute angle α over the full extension of the seal protecting portions 27. In FIG. 7(B) the seal protecting portions 27 are rounded and the tangential line at an intermediate portion of the seal protecting portion 27 defines an ~~obtuse~~ acute angle α to the respective contact surface 29 or the longitudinal direction FD. The edge of the outer surface at the extending end of each fastening piece 20 is a slanted or rounded surface 28 as shown in FIG. 5.

Amend paragraph 0035 as follows:

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[0035] It is sufficient for the seal protecting portions to be at obtuse angles α to the corner portions of the contact surfaces with the seal, and they need not be slanted surfaces (see FIG. 7(A)) of a specified angle α. For example, the seal protecting portions may be curved surfaces with tangents in an intermediate position at ~~obtuse~~ acute angles α to the contact surfaces (see FIG. 7(B)).

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